

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 1150 - SB 1226**

March 8, 2011

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires the Secretary of State to make information available to covered voters regarding procedures for voter registration and for casting military-overseas ballots. Requires creation of an electronic transmission system through which a covered voter may apply for and receive voter registration materials, military-overseas ballots, and other information. Requires system to ensure that the electronic transmission system is capable of accepting a federal postcard application and any other approved electronic registration application or military-overseas ballot application sent to the appropriate election official. Requires development of a standardized absentee-voting materials to be used with the military-overseas ballot application and, to the extent possible, coordination with other states to carry out this standardization. Requires creation of a declaration form for the covered voter. Requires implementation, in coordination with local election officials, an electronic free-access system by which the covered voter may determine by telephone, e-mail or Internet whether the voter's federal postcard application or military-overseas ballot application has been received and accepted, whether the voter's military-overseas ballot has been received and the current status of the ballot.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$250,000/One-Time  
\$182,400/Recurring**

**Increase Local Expenditures – Not Significant**

**Assumptions:**

- According to the Coordinator of Elections, the cost to establish an electronic transmission system which the voter could use to apply for and receive voter registration materials, absentee ballots and other information will be a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$250,000, with a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$182,400.
- WAN wide area network connection for 80 additional counties (15 counties already have WAN connection).
- The recurring increase in state expenditures to maintain the additional WAN connections will be \$182,400 per year [(\$190 per line x 80 counties) x 12 months].

- A one-time increase in state expenditures of \$250,000 for the Office for Information Resources (OIR) to build an application that will allow the covered voter to apply for voter registration information, absentee ballots and receive absentee ballots through a statewide system.
- Local election commission offices are currently performing functions required by the bill related to voter registration for overseas voters and the casting of military-overseas ballots. No additional personnel or resources will be required to carry out the requirements of this bill. Any increase in local government expenditures will be not significant.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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